



The official
publication
of the members of
Indian Electric
Cooperative

Renovating
Safety Tip



3

Pawhuska
Triangle
Building

3



4 Youth Power
Energy Camp



Pawnee Community Restores Historic WPA Bathhouse

Current and past Pawnee residents share money and memories to renovate building and facilities

The silence that has hung over the hollow below the dam at Pawnee Lake for the past 30-something years has finally been broken. The whine of power tools and the grunts and hums of excavation equipment now mix over the rhythm of hammering and when you think about it, it makes for a pretty good tune. The old Pawnee Bathhouse is coming back.

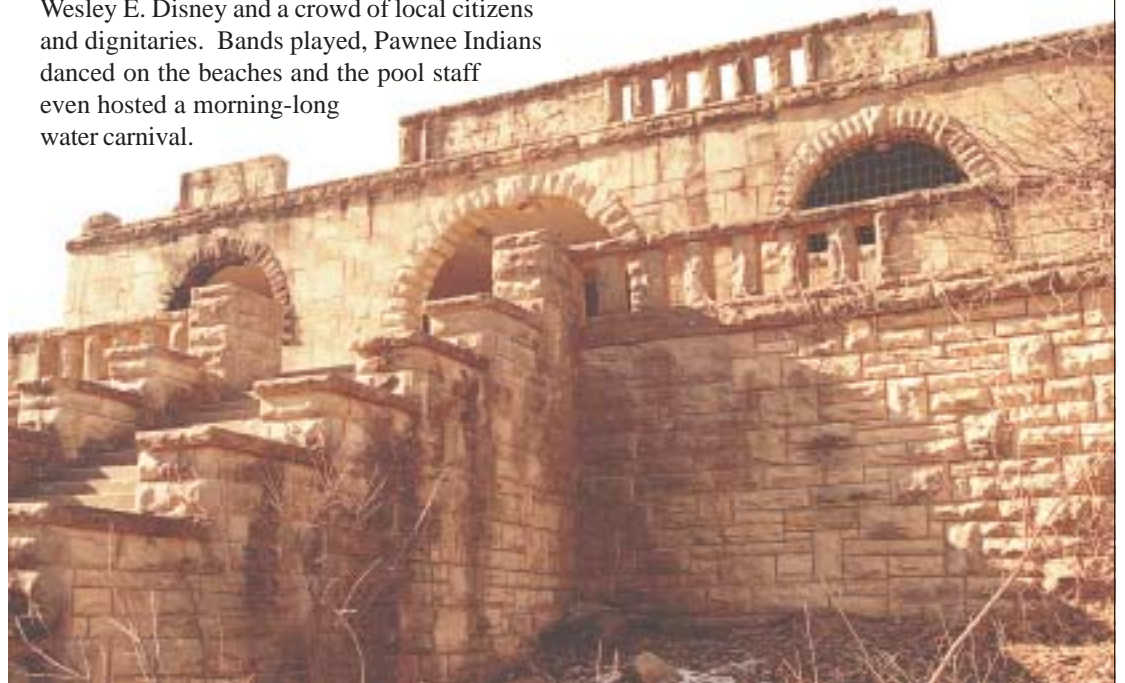
The two-story bathhouse was originally constructed in 1939 by President Roosevelt's Works Progress Administration (WPA). Built of hand cut and coursed native stone, the structure is a unique blend of architectural styles and stands as a permanent memorial to skilled artisans such as stone mason Frank Chidister who is credited for much of the bathhouse's stonework. An intricate system of stone steps and walls leads from the building to a spring-fed two-acre swimming area below, complete with sandy beaches, wooden decks and a high dive platform. The building was opened on June 30, 1939 by Gov. Leon C. Phillips, Congressman Wesley E. Disney and a crowd of local citizens and dignitaries. Bands played, Pawnee Indians danced on the beaches and the pool staff even hosted a morning-long water carnival.

The bathhouse and swimming hole were home to 30 years of family fun and summertime memories before it was closed in the 1960s in favor of a concrete pool built in Pawnee.

In the years since its closing, the bathhouse has fallen into disrepair, a victim of both nature and vandals. By 2002, it was listed on Oklahoma's "Most Endangered Historic Property" list and appeared as though it would soon go the way of downtown theaters and brick side streets. And then Mayor Elzie Smith, the Pawnee County Historical Society and a host of community supporters launched an all-out fundraising and restoration effort.

To date, nearly half of the estimated \$80,000 needed for the project has been raised. Checks and pledges have poured in from around the country along with a multitude of letters, photographs and memories. Several Graduating classes of Pawnee High School have challenged each other to match funds

Continued on Page 3



Employee Spotlight - Tony Gordon

IEC lineman also serves on the Ralston City Council to improve the community he calls home

Being an involved member of his community is something Tony Gordon takes seriously. That is why he serves on the Ralston City Council and why he feels working for an electric cooperative is a worthwhile job.

Gordon is a lineman in the Fairfax area. He and fellow crew member James Martin help build and maintain the

for three years, having been appointed to fill an unexpired term, and then being elected to the position.

“As a council member, I try to help by making improvements in the community,” he says. He notes Ralston recently installed a new sewer system and has renovating the

city’s water system as its next goal. “My personal goal is to see a park

“As a council member, I try to help by making improvements in the community.”

Tony Gordon, IEC lineman

electric system in the northwestern portion of IEC’s service territory.

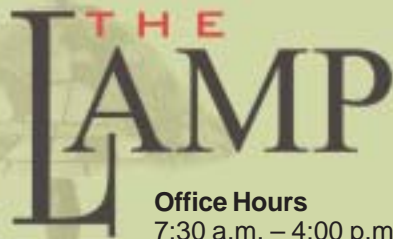
Gordon moved to Ralston from central California when he was 15 years old and graduated from high school here. He worked different jobs in the Fairfax-Ponca City-Ralston area until 1998 when he began working for Indian Electric Cooperative. He and his wife Terri make their home in Ralston and have a 5-year-old daughter Shelbi, and a 3-year-old son Tyler. The family enjoys spending time together boating and fishing on Kaw Lake and Fairfax Lake.

Gordon has served on the city council

built,” he says.

“I’d like it to have playground equipment and just be a nice place for families in the area to go and spend time together.

“Working for Indian Electric Cooperative and serving on the city council are both challenging jobs,” he says. “Both give me the opportunity to serve the people in my area.”



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Editor: Jonathan Smith

The Lamp (USPS 942-940) is published monthly by Indian Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 49, Highway 64 Southeast, Cleveland, Oklahoma 74020 for the interest of its membership. Subscription price was \$0.17 per month in 2002. Periodical postage paid at Cleveland, Oklahoma and additional mailing offices.

- Postmaster: Send address changes to *The Lamp*, P.O. Box 49, Cleveland, OK 74020.

Preserving Our Past



A group of area business people and local citizens recently pooled their resources to purchase Pawhuska's Triangle Building in an effort to preserve the historic structure.

Home to over 100 lawyers during the oil boom, the Triangle Building of Pawhuska stands as a permanent memorial to the men and women who forever changed the face of Oklahoma. Built in 1913, this five-story "flatiron" was designed to efficiently use a tiny scrap of land between two downtown streets where a small park and two-story bandstand once stood. The building is constructed of brick, sandstone and local yellow Cherokee limestone and remains the

crowning fixture of the least architecturally altered commercial district in the state.

The building still boasts many of its elaborate original fixtures, but years of abandonment and decay have left their mark. Preservation Oklahoma listed the site as one of last year's "Most Endangered Historic Properties. Current estimates put the cost of restoration at nearly \$2 million.

To take part in this historic project contact:

Pawhuska Chamber of Commerce
222 West Main Street
Pawhuska, OK 74056

Guide to Home Repair
homerepair.about.com

Renovator's Supply
www.renovatorsupply.com

Oklahoma Historical Society
www.ok-history.mus.ok.us

Preservation Oklahoma
charityadvantage.com/POK/



Doing Your Own Remodeling?

Installing ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) could save your life.

A ground-fault happens whenever electricity escapes the confines of the wiring in an appliance, light fixture, or power tool and takes a shortcut to the ground. When that short cut is through a human, the results can be deadly. About 200 people in the U.S. alone die of ground faults each year, accounting for two thirds of all electrocutions occurring in homes.

Installing ground-fault circuit interrupters is recommended in buildings

with wiring that is 20 years old or older. Owners of older houses can install \$10 GFCI receptacles or have GFCI breaker switches mounted in the main breaker panel. Portable GFCI adapters, which plug into regular wall receptacles, are available for about \$40.

Since GFCIs offer protection regardless of whether or not your wiring is grounded, they are a perfect first step for individuals launching their own restoration project.

Pawnee Bathhouse Restoration

Continued from Page 1

and the Oklahoma Steam Threshing and Gas Engine Association fired up their machines to cut and plane new wooden shingles for the roof.

"It's really a beautiful and unique place that's worth saving" says D. Jo Ferguson, editor and publisher of the *Pawnee Chief*. "A lot of families have made memories out there and I think it's great that today's generation is going to get that same opportunity."

Restorations and updates to the building include modernization of restroom facilities, remodeling the lower level of the bathhouse to accommodate a concession area and general repairs to the structure and masonry. Outside of the building itself, the swimming area has been drained and cleaned out; new sand

has been hauled in to line the beaches; new platforms and high dives have been built; and trees, shrubs and undergrowth have been thinned out.

The Grand re-opening of the park is tentatively scheduled for the third weekend of May 2003. Plans are currently underway to make it as memorable as the first.

Meanwhile, there's plenty you can do to get involved. Donors giving \$500 or more will be honored with bronze plaques mounted in the bathhouse, but donations of any amount are greatly appreciated. All donations are fully tax deductible and should be mailed to:

City of Pawnee Bathhouse
c/o City Hall
510 Illinois St.
Pawnee, OK 74058

Get Involved!

Want to find out what you can do to help preserve our past? Visit our website at www.iecok.com and check out links to historic properties, ghost towns, local histories and current renovation projects.

We also host an extensive list of area chambers of commerce to assist you in planning your next visit.



RECIPES



Salsa de Picante

2 large cans tomatoes, chopped
3 small cans green chilies, chopped
2 small cans jalapeno peppers, chopped
2 large onions, chopped
6-10 garlic cloves, chopped
1 tbsp. salt

Place all ingredients in a large pot and bring to a boil.
Boil for 5 minutes. Cool & refrigerate.

Tex-Mex Lasagna

12 corn tortillas or lasagna noodles	3 cloves garlic, chopped or minced
1 (14 to 16 oz.) can tomato sauce	2 tsp. chili seasoning
1/2 lb. ricotta cheese (can substitute with 1 cup cottage cheese)	2 eggs, slightly beaten
1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese	4 oz. diced green chilies
1/2 lb. cheddar cheese, sliced thin or grated	1 16 oz. can red kidney beans, drained
1 cup Tejano salsa	1 8 oz. can whole kernel corn, drained
1 medium onion, chopped	1 tsp. cumin
	1/2 tsp. oregano
	1 lb. ground beef

Pre-heat oven to 375 degrees. If using lasagna noodles, cook according to package directions or until tender but still firm. Drain, keep warm.

Meanwhile, sauté the ground beef, garlic and onion in a large cast iron skillet or heavy frying pan until beef is done. Add tomato sauce, salsa, green chilies, chili powder, cumin, corn and kidney beans. Stir to mix and simmer on low heat 5 minutes, stirring frequently.



In a separate bowl, combine eggs, ricotta cheese and oregano.

Arrange 6 tortillas on bottom and up sides of lightly greased 9" x 13" deep-sided baking pan, overlapping as needed. If using lasagna pasta arrange a first layer of noodles so the ends hang over the sides of the pan. (The ends will be laid back-over the top for the final layer)

Add about 1/2 of the meat, bean and tomato sauce. Spoon cheese and egg mixture on top of the meat sauce and add 1/2 of the cheddar cheese. Add a second alternating layer of tortillas or pasta, the meat sauce and cheese mixture and top with remaining cheddar cheese. If using noodles, at this point fold over the ends from the first layer.

Bake at 375 degrees for 30 minutes, or till cheese is bubbly. Allow to set for 5 to 10 minutes before cutting.



Your favorite eighth grader could be just 100 – 300 words away from a leadership experience that could kick off a summer of fun. Each year, IEC joins Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives and electric cooperatives from across the state in sponsoring the Youth Power Energy Camp in Camp Canyon near Hinton, OK. The camp, slated for May 27 – 30, is designed to help students develop leadership skills while having fun.

By forming their own cooperative business, students learn about leadership and business while interacting with other eighth graders from across the state. Campers also have the opportunity to learn about generating and distributing electricity by touring the electric generation facilities at Western Farmers Electric Cooperative in Anadarko and the offices of Caddo Electric Cooperative in Binger. Safety demonstrations are put on by linemen and students even get a chance to try their hand at riding bucket trucks and climbing poles.

And then there's the really fun stuff – campers start the summer out right by making new friends and taking part in a variety of activities including volleyball, swimming, ping pong, hiking, and a visit to Celebration Station.

Heard enough? The contest is simple. Any student currently attending the eighth grade within IEC's service territory is eligible to participate. Essays of 100 - 300 words over the topic, "What IEC Does for My Community," should be submitted to IEC's office by Monday, March 31. Two winners will be chosen from the submitted essays to represent the cooperative at Energy Camp. IEC covers all expenses related to the camp including transportation to and from Camp Canyon.

Visit our website at www.iecok.com for more information or contact Jonathan Smith at (918) 295-9583 or Cyndie Wood at (918) 295-9564 to see how you can help a local student get involved.